

# **2008 KY Leadership Conference and Skills Championship**

## **SkillsUSA: Champions At Work**

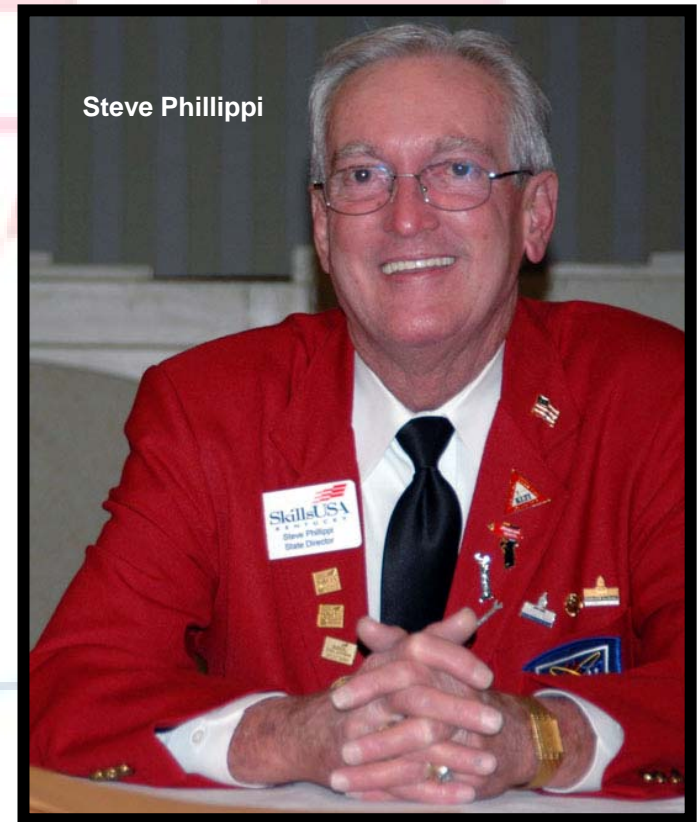
The 2008 SkillsUSA Kentucky State Leadership Conference and Skills Championship was held in Louisville at the Executive Inn April 1-4.

The student organization continues to surpass membership, scholarship and corporate sponsorship benchmarks on a yearly basis. Why?

Steve Phillippi has worked to develop viable partnerships during his five years as the Kentucky SkillsUSA state director. Hard work and dedication is easy for him because of his thirty-seven year association with what was formerly called VICA (Vocational Industrial Clubs of America).

Phillippi attributes much of the organization's success to all the volunteers who make it happen at the local, regional and state levels.

“Our hard work is paying off. We can take great pride in the fact that our students continue to benefit.” said Phillippi. “We made significant strides in raising *scholarships and prizes* for this year's conference by reaching a new all time record of \$ 1.75 M. This is a 45 per cent increase over last year. It's because we have an army of dedicated volunteers across this state. We all believe in the importance of SkillsUSA and the impact it has on students.”



# Conference Registration



*Photo at left (l to r): Phillippi and SkillsUSA bookkeeper Emily Wash go over final registration tallies, last minute expenses and details of the conference.*

*There were approximately 1,100 advisors and students registered for the 2008 conference.*

*Photo at right: Wash answers a question for Franklin Co. CTC welding student Josh Croucher.*

*“This is a great conference for young people,” said Wash. “I had a good time and enjoyed being able to help others.”*





# SkillsUSA Kentucky Leadership Team



Certificate of Merit presented to Ruth Gray for outstanding efforts in helping SkillsUSA.

At right (l to r): James Bullard (former state officer and student of Larry DeJournet), Emily Wash and DeJournett get medals ready for awards program.



The SkillsUSA Kentucky Leadership Team is made up of Caldwell Co. ATC culinary arts instructor Ruth Gray, Paducah ATC collision repair instructor Larry DeJournett, Newport High School graphic communications instructor Steve Stubbs, and SkillsUSA bookkeeper Emily Wash.

Above photo (l to r): Samantha Lockhart, Kristen Patterson, DeJournett, and Heather York.

At left (l to r): Stubbs, Newport HS student Brandi Burton, and Phillippi.

Each member of the team works hard to help state director Steve Phillippi deliver a variety of services for a successful conference.



## First General Session – April 1

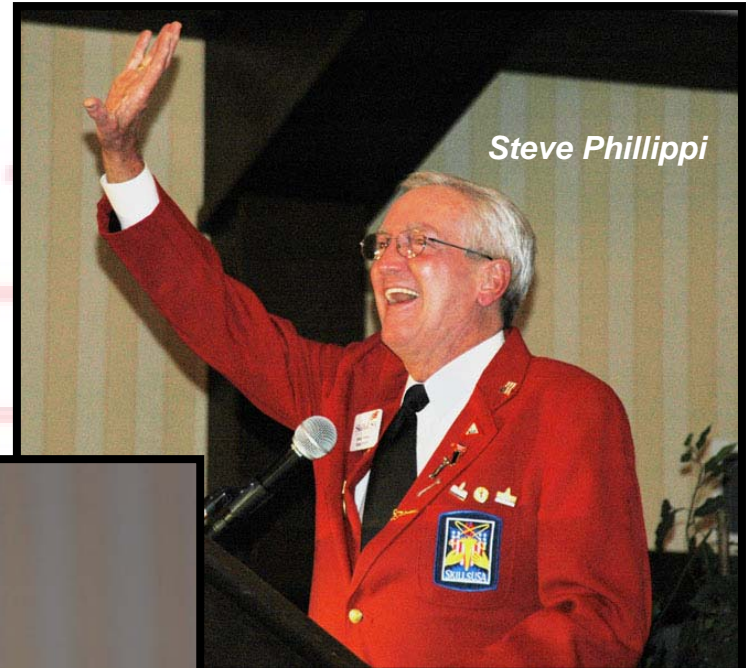
This year's opening session provided members with an opportunity to meet several guest speakers including Robert McWilliams, Education Cabinet deputy secretary; Marsha Daves, SkillsUSA director of the Office of Training, Membership and Program Development; Michael Kindred, OCTE deputy executive director; and Debbie Anderson, KDE division director.



*Robert McWilliams*



*Steve Phillippi*



*At left (l to r): Kindred, Daves and Phillippi.*

*At right (l to r): Anderson and Kindred.*





# 2008 SkillsUSA Kentucky Secondary Advisor of the Year

**Rodney Nokes, Machine Tool Technology  
Lake Cumberland Area Technology Center**

“I am very honored that my students would nominate me for advisor of the year. You can not be a great advisor without having great students and my students make teaching a joy.

“This is my 8<sup>th</sup> year of being a SkillsUSA advisor and I was hooked the first year. Each year, we all look forward to the local, regional and state competitions. My personal belief is that SkillsUSA is a great way for students to show off their skills.

“A student doesn’t have to be a gold medal winner for me to be proud. My greatest expectation is that each student gives his or her best effort. To me, if you do your best, people will respect you for your effort and determination to succeed.

“Being selected as advisor of the year is the greatest honor in my career.

“I would like to thank my students and the whole SkillsUSA Kentucky organization for this honor.”



**Photo (l to r): Marci O'Bryan, Eastside Technical Center; Larry DeJournett, Paducah ATC; Tom Thompson, Breckinridge Co. ATC; Rodney Nokes, Lake Cumberland ATC; Debra Gruber, Paducah ATC; and Jody Compton, Breckinridge Co. ATC.**



*Photos by Tim Thornberry*

# SkillsUSA Kentucky Chapter Membership Awards

The “Chapter Membership Awards” program was created by state director Steve Phillippi to recognize exemplary SkillsUSA Kentucky membership in schools. Each year Phillippi provides a framed certificate for schools that have reached established criteria.

SkillsUSA chapters that have 300+ members are distinguished as Gold Chapters and include Chapman Career and Technical Education Center.

## Silver Chapters (200+ members)

Paducah ATC

## Bronze Chapters (100+ members)

Boyd Co. CTE Center

Breckinridge Co. ATC

Eastside TC

Franklin Co. CTC

Hughes Jones-Harrodsburg ATC

Lake Cumberland ATC

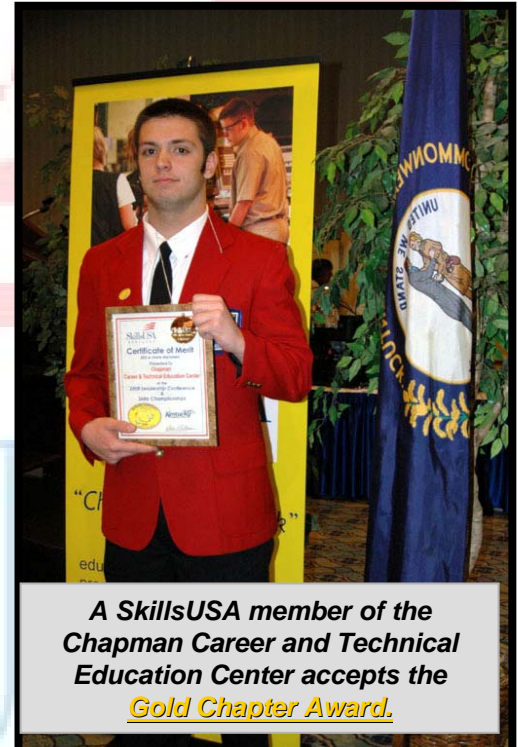
Leslie Co. ATC

Meade Co. ATC

Millard ATC

Pulaski Co. ATC

*At right: Silver and Bronze Chapter members accept awards.*



*A SkillsUSA member of the Chapman Career and Technical Education Center accepts the Gold Chapter Award.*





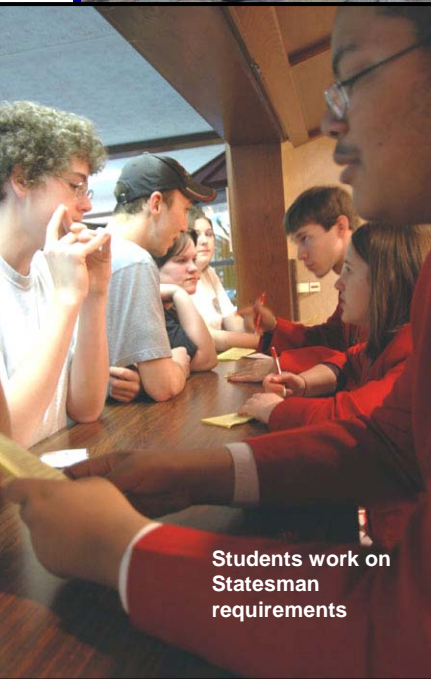
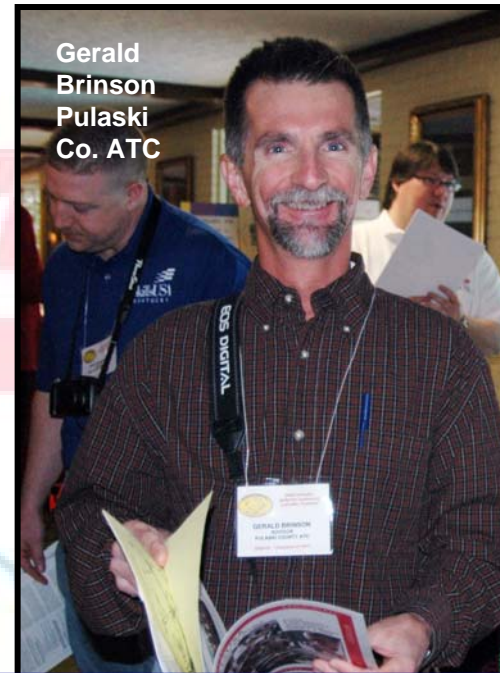
# Kentucky Statesman



Paducah ATC delegation.

According to Advisor Debra Gruber, "all of the Paducah ATC SkillsUSA members have now earned their Kentucky Statesman."

Gerald Brinson  
Pulaski  
Co. ATC



Students work on Statesman requirements

Leadership development for students is at the core of SkillsUSA Kentucky. Through a structured Kentucky Statesman leadership training program, students have the opportunity to test their SkillsUSA knowledge. This also helps to prepare them for leadership roles as the future leaders of Kentucky's workforce.

SkillsUSA leadership activities such as the Kentucky Statesman help mold character, citizenship and the employability skills and knowledge required for a highly skilled 21<sup>st</sup> Century workplace.



Carpentry instructor J.W. Blackburn (l) and welding instructor Randy Shewmaker (far right) pose with their students, Shelby Gelhausen, Righter Dundon, and Nick Farler.

# **New SkillsUSA Kentucky State Officer Scholarship created**

A new cash scholarship was created this year for state officers. Why? Students who become state officers do not have the privilege of competing in events because of their assigned duties at state conference. Additionally, over the course of their elected position, they serve as goodwill ambassadors and represent SkillsUSA Kentucky in events across the state.

Five scholarships were funded in the amount of \$250 each and awarded to the following outstanding state officers:

## **Steve and Mechelle Phillippi Scholarship:**

**Ronnie Santana, president**

## **Fran and George Dundon Scholarship:**

**Daniel Moore, VP**

## **Kentucky SkillsUSA Development Foundation, Inc. Scholarship:** (\$250 scholarship to the following state officers:

**Jeremy Artis, secretary;  
Kristi Reeves, treasurer;  
Samantha Lockhart,  
parliamentarian**

During a speech given at the SkillsUSA Reception, Fran Dundon, Education Cabinet/OCTE communications branch supervisor, challenged every teacher to look into the possibility of creating a “State Officer Scholarship” in the name of the school’s chapter, family, or through a partnership.

Before the evening concluded, J.D. Patton Area Technology Center electrical technology instructor Tom Pitts pledged a \$250 scholarship on behalf of his wife Connie and himself for the 2008-09 Conference.

“We are fortunate to have individuals like Tom Pitts and his wife. They believe in the importance of who we are and what we do for students,” said Phillippi. “We hope others across the state will match this effort.”

Those interested in supporting a scholarship, please contact Mr. Steve Phillippi via e-mail at [\*\*Steve.Phillippi@ky.gov\*\*](mailto:Steve.Phillippi@ky.gov)

All scholarship gifts are tax deductible.



# Scholarship Sponsorship



According to SkillsUSA Kentucky State Director Steve Phillippi, once again more scholarship money will be provided to Kentucky students who excel in their state leadership and skills competitions. Why?

Phillippi:

“It’s because of the continuing importance of education and skills training.

“Postsecondary institutions inside and outside of Kentucky are offering scholarships to our SkillsUSA state champions because we have a reputation for excellence.

“We are proud of our efforts to provide students with \$1.5M in scholarship awards for this year’s conference. That’s impressive by any standards.

“Most importantly, we are proud of our students and the technical education and skills training provided by their instructors. It’s second to none.”

*Photo: Phillippi and Mr. Ron Chilton, admissions relations, Louisville Technical Institute.*

*Chilton:*

*“Our basic educational philosophy is to help the student create, design and develop skills. Our motto is short-term and hands-on. The reason we are here is to maximize our exposure.”*

*For more information, e-mail Mr. Chilton - [rchilton@louisvilletech.edu](mailto:rchilton@louisvilletech.edu)*

**Smith:**

***“Sullivan is known for hospitality, but we have so many other programs to offer including information technology, early childhood education and significant concentrations in business and paralegal studies.***

***“Often times, students are cognizant of postsecondary institutions that are in close proximity to where they live. By setting up a display at this SkillsUSA state conference, Sullivan has a chance to showcase our programs and benefits.***

***“We decided to offer additional scholarships for any event because our philosophy is that students don’t necessarily want a career in the event they are competing. It’s our way of supporting a variety of students who might be interested in what Sullivan has to offer.”***

## **Scholarship Sponsorship**



**Photo: Phillippi and Theresa Smith, associate director at Sullivan University. For more information, e-mail Theresa at [tlsmith@sullivan.edu](mailto:tlsmith@sullivan.edu)**



This is the first year for WyoTech to be part of the SkillsUSA Kentucky state conference. It is known as the official technical school of the National Hot Rod Association (NHRA).

WyoTech provided a total of \$300,000 in scholarships for diesel technology, auto service technology, collision repair and automotive refinishing.

### **Palm:**

*“Wyotech is offering scholarships to give students an opportunity to know that this is another option for their postsecondary education.*

*“Because we are recognized as one of the leaders in automotive training, we definitely need to be fixtures at SkillsUSA Kentucky and nationwide.”*

## **Scholarship Sponsorship**



**Photo: Phillippi and Anthony Palm,  
admissions representative with WyoTech.  
For more information, e-mail Anthony at  
[apalm@wyotech.edu](mailto:apalm@wyotech.edu)**

# Spotlight on Ronnie Santana – 2007-08 SkillsUSA Kentucky President



Becoming a member of SkillsUSA Kentucky opened up a whole new world for Ronnie Santana. He served as the 2006-07 SkillsUSA Kentucky secretary and currently serves as president of the organization.

Santana:

“Personally, I believe everything has a purpose. Honestly, my first year of being an officer was revealing. I found out a lot about myself because it opened up my eyes. Actually, it changed me because I have learned manners, proper etiquette, protocol – but most of all, respect. The person I am today is the result of opportunities afforded to me through SkillsUSA Kentucky.”

“Out of all the people I know, Mr. Phillippi is probably the only man that I fear and yet, have the utmost respect for because I love him like a father. He makes you challenge yourself to find out who you truly are. Some people can be replaced, but Mr. Phillippi was born to fit this position.”

Since the first day of his junior year, Santana has been growing his hair for “Locks of Love” (<http://www.locksoflove.org/>), a public non-profit organization that provides hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children under age 18.

Santana’s curly hair measures approximately 8” when straight. He must have at least 10” of hair before the organization will accept it as a donation. He originally decided to donate hair because of a fellow classmate.

“I asked her what she did with her beautiful long red hair. She told me she gave it to cancer patients through the Locks of Love organization,” said Santana.

“I thought that was pretty admirable, so I am trying to achieve the same goal. I now kind of understand the troubles women have keeping long hair groomed. It takes a lot of effort. Every now and then, I have to get a little trim because of all the dead ends. You know, we have to look good,” said Santana.

Sananta will graduate in June 2008 and plans to attend Western Kentucky University. He will always remember SkillsUSA and the electrical technology skills training he received at the Kentucky Tech – Green County Area Technology Center.





# Meet the 08-09 SkillsUSA Kentucky Slate of State Officers



***Heather York  
Caldwell County ATC  
Culinary Arts Program  
Ruth Gray-Advisor***



***Loretta Wallace  
Eastside Career and  
Technical Center  
Diesel Technology Program  
Pat Boone-Advisor***



***Danielle Phelps  
Caldwell Co. ATC  
Culinary Arts - Program  
Ruth Gray-Advisor***

# Meet the 08-09 SkillsUSA Kentucky Slate of State Officers



***Righter Dundon  
Franklin Co. Career and  
Technical Center  
Welding Program  
Randy Shewmaker-Advisor***



***Hunter Orenduff  
Paducah ATC  
Auto Body Repair Program  
Larry DeJournett-Advisor***



***Tyler Myatt  
Paducah ATC  
Auto Technology Program  
Robert Lee - Advisor***



# Meet the 08-09 SkillsUSA Kentucky State of State Officers



**Jason Ballman**  
**Breckinridge County ATC**  
**Machine Tool Technology Program**  
**Tom Thompson - Advisor**



**Kristi Reeves**  
**Breckinridge Co. ATC**  
**Business Technology and**  
**Information Technology**  
**Jody Compton – Advisor**  
  
**\*Plans to attend Elizabethtown**  
**Community and Technical College**  
**Jane Masse - Advisor**

*Kristi served as  
a secondary  
state officer  
during the  
2007-08 school  
year.*

*She will serve  
as a 2008-09  
postsecondary  
officer.*

# Kentucky SkillsUSA receives Lowe's grant for TeamWorks competition

The 2008 TeamWorks competitive event was held this year with support from the Lowe's Charitable and Education Foundation. Prior to state conference, SkillsUSA Kentucky director Steve Phillippi wrote and received a \$3,400 grant. Lowe's also provided fully equipped tool bags for student teams winning first, second and third place.

"We are pleased SkillsUSA Kentucky received this grant because of the impact it had in providing students with supplies and equipment during this competitive event," said Phillippi. "We thank Lowe's for their insight in supporting the development of students and for providing judges for the TeamWorks event."

The state TeamWorks event was held at the Carpenters' Union Hall off Preston Highway in Louisville.

The TeamWorks competitive event requires a team of four to build a joint project in six hours or less, demonstrating their preparation for employment in residential construction.

To compete in TeamWorks, members must analyze a project drawing, write an action plan, give a presentation and demonstrate their ability to work as a team performing skills in residential carpentry, plumbing, electricity and masonry.



Middle photo: 2<sup>nd</sup> – C.E. McCormick ATC –Team A  
Bottom: 3<sup>rd</sup> – C.E. McCormick ATC – Team B



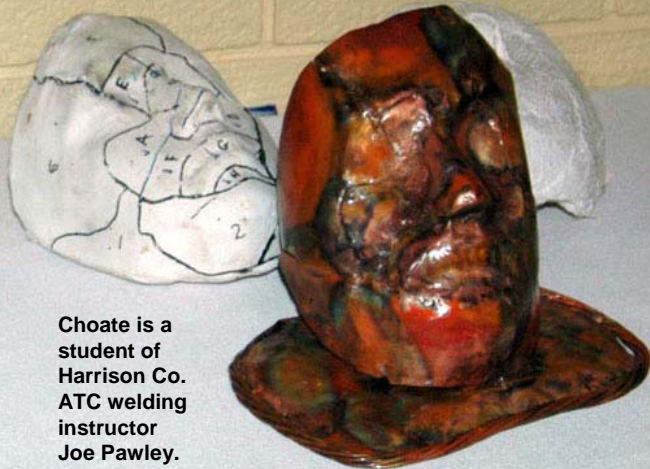
# **Welding Sculpture – A fierce new competition**

Welding Sculpture - it's a first in Kentucky and the nation. The contest is open to students enrolled in welding or metal trades programs. Because of enthusiasm and the level of skill involved in the contest, organizers are exploring the possibility of how they can get the SkillsUSA organization to recognize and hold this type of competition at the national level.

**Contest guidelines include sculpture design and workmanship, a max. sculpture size of 18" tall x 12" wide x 18" long, notebook requirement, verification letter, and personal presentation.**



**"Ancient Beauty"**  
1st place welding sculpture  
Chelsey Choate



Choate is a student of Harrison Co. ATC welding instructor Joe Pawley.

(l to r): 2nd – Harold Flach, Wayne Co. ATC;  
1st – Chelsey Choate, Harrison Co. ATC;  
and 3rd – Natalie Salazar, Green Co. ATC.



# Welding Sculpture – A fierce new competition



Judges (l to r): Craig Herald, Hazard CTC; Karl Watson, Somerset CC; Coy Hall, J.D. Patton ATC; Mickey Bayer, Caldwell Co. ATC; Ken Fannin, Rockcastle Co. ATC; and David McCoy, Meade Co. ATC

Comments from judges included “inspiring,” “exceeded our expectations,” “impressed by the craftsmanship and detail,” “story presentations given by students were an inspiration behind the projects.”



**“The Wasp”  
PS - 1<sup>st</sup> place  
Bobby Towe  
Somerset CC –  
Laurel Campus**



Photos above (l to r): “The Casino Owner,” 3<sup>rd</sup> place secondary, Natalie Salazar, Green Co. ATC; “The Guitar,” Casey Richardson, Ohio Co. ATC; “9-11 Memorial,” Shawn Tracey, Franklin Co. CTC; “Airplane,” Michele Jasper, 2<sup>nd</sup> place postsecondary, Somerset CC-Somerset; and “Truck,” Joey Begley, Leslie Co. ATC.



# Poster - Leadership Event

The Poster contest is in the Leadership Events division. Students are required to create a poster using the 'Champions at Work' theme.

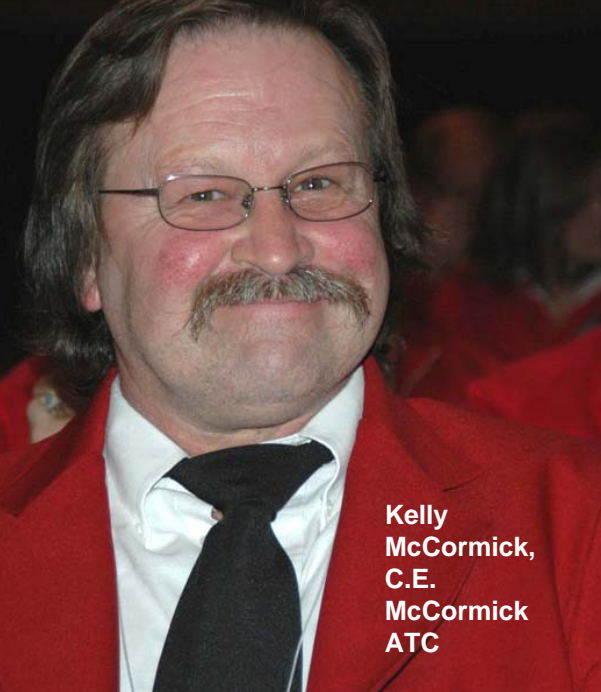
According to SkillsUSA Kentucky state director Steve Phillippi, "this contest was developed to provide sophomores with an opportunity to compete at state."



*From left to right: Becky Hall, Mason Co. ATC; Joe Parrish, Franklin Co. CTE (1<sup>st</sup> place); Eric Johnson, Iroquois HS; Adam Chapman, Moore Traditional HS; Chloe York, Paducah ATC (2<sup>nd</sup> place); and Shawn Roberts, Lincoln Co. ATC (3<sup>rd</sup> place).*

"This is the second year Joe has been the state champion winner in the Poster contest. We are all extremely proud of him," says Franklin Co. CTE carpentry instructor J.W. Blackburn. We are pleased that Mr. Phillippi created this event because it has provided Joe and other students across the Commonwealth with an avenue to be an active SkillsUSA member."





Kelly  
McCormick,  
C.E.  
McCormick  
ATC

## SkillsUSA Kentucky



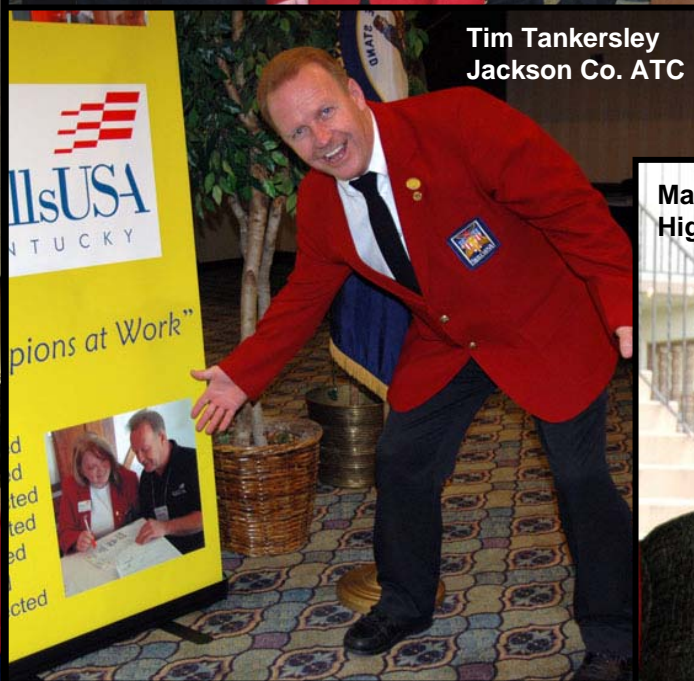
Webster Co. ATC  
delegation

## Guests and Attendees

Sherman Cook  
Rockcastle Co. ATC



OCTE Executive  
Director John  
Marks and Kristi  
Reeves.



Tim Tankersley  
Jackson Co. ATC



Mary Stratton and Laura  
Higdon, Marion Co. ATC



# SkillsUSA Kentucky Attendees



Mason Co. ATC delegation



Corbin ATC group



Franklin Co. CTC delegation



Garrard Co. ATC delegation



Millard ATC delegation





**At left: Meade Co. ATC  
HVAC instructor Darren Jones.**



**Former Breckinridge Co. ATC principal Wayne Spencer (far right) attended the conference and met with some of his former employees (l to r): Tom Thompson, machine tool technology instructor; Joe Stinnett, carpentry instructor, and current Breckinridge Co. ATC principal James Carroll.**



**Caldwell Co. ATC  
delegation**

**Good News Story #241  
By: Fran Dundon  
April 25, 2008  
Office of  
Career and Technical Education  
Kentucky Education Cabinet**

